

Cork Grand Opera Group

TÓSTAL CORCAÍ PRESENTATION

*Joan Hammond*



JOAN HAMMOND



CITY HALL, CORK

Wednesday, May 29th, 1957

at 8 p.m.

# CORK GRAND OPERA GROUP

FOUNDED 1952.

## Previous Presentations

- First Season* ..... "MARITANA" at Coliseum Theatre, Cork,  
1953 and City Theatre, Limerick.
- Second Season* ..... "LA TRAVIATA" and "RIGOLETTO" at  
1954 — Spring Cork Opera House.
- Third Season* ..... "IL TROVATORE" and "LUCIA DI  
1954 — Winter LAMMERMOOR" at Cork Opera House.
- Fourth Season* ..... "AIDA" and "THE BARBER OF  
1955 — Winter SEVILLE" at Cork Opera House.
- Fifth Season* ..... "MARITANA" at Palace Theatre, Cork.  
1957 — Spring

## SIXTH SEASON — AUTUMN, 1957

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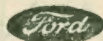
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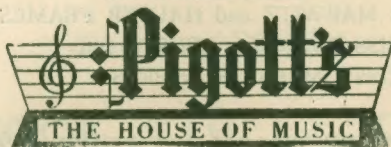
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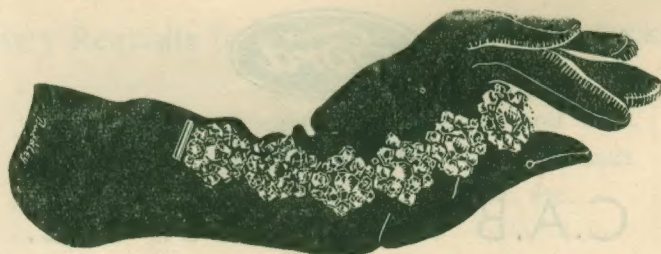


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# CORK GRAND OPERA GROUP

(Tostal Presentation)

## JOAN HAMMOND

Accompanist: JEANNIE REDDIN

### *Programme*

#### GROUP I.

CANZONETTA DE CONCERT - - - Joseph Haydn

Already the night is approaching, so come then to beloved Nice, and from the placid lagoon breathe the fresh air. I cannot say that I am charmed, and on these sands I shall not stay. Now the gentle zephyr ruffles the sea. But thou tremblest, my treasure, shall I speak to thee of love elsewhere? When the night darkens the heaven, ungrateful Nice, I shall go my way.

English version: JOHN BROWN.

Aria. DIDO'S LAMENT. from *Dido and Aeneas* - Henry Purcell

This opera was composed and first performed about the year 1689. It was written for a school in Chelsea, London.

The story is based on an old Greek tale. Aeneas, who is married to Dido, is called by Jupiter's messenger to the Trojan war. Dido is so sad and incensed at what she considers to be his faithless departure, that she kills herself. The Lament contains the best-known melody in the opera.

Aria. PACE MIO DIO from *The Force of Destiny* Guiseppe Verdi

Leonora has sought sanctuary in a hermit cave after her lover has accidentally killed her father. She sings the words "Pace, mio Dio," seeking Heaven's aid in gaining respite from her remorse and sorrow.

#### GROUP II.

HAVE YOU SEEN BUT A WHYTE LILY GROW? Anon. arr. Lehmann

LOVE'S PHILOSOPHY - - - Frederick Delius

SHE WANDERED DOWN THE MOUNTAINSIDE - Frederic Clay

### GROUP III.

Recit. and THE KING OF THULE

from *Faust* Charles Gounod

*Aria.*                      JEWEL SONG

In Gounod's setting of the story by Goethe, the famous Jewel Song is perhaps the best-loved of all the well-known airs in the opera.

Sitting in her garden, Marguerite sings the simple folk-song, 'The King of Thule,' but her thoughts are with the handsome stranger who accosted her at the fair. She then sees the casket of jewels left on her doorstep by the crafty Mephistopheles, and is transported with joy and excitement at their splendour, and how regal she looks when she adorns herself with them.

## Interval

#### GROUP IV.

*Aria. GODS OF THE LAKE from Rusalka - Anton Dvorak*

Rusalka, who is broken-hearted at the faithlessness of the Prince, her husband, implores the Water God to kill her as her life means nothing to her. Her sisters have shunned her and without the love of the Prince she is desolate.

*Aria. O SILVER MOON from Rusalka - - Anton Dvorak*

The Water Nymph, Rusalka, loves a mortal Prince who comes to her lake to bathe.

She consults a Witch and becomes a human being. The Prince falls in love with her but later leaves her and marries a Princess.

The Moon Song tells of her wish to see him again and her hope that the Moon will help her.

### GROUP V.

*Aria.* SENZA MAMMA (Without a mother's blessing)

from Suor Angelica

*Giacomo Puccini*

"Sister Angelica"—one of Puccini's single act operas written to be performed together with "Gianni Schicchi" and "The Cloak" is a poignant story of a titled girl who has a child; and is then hastily banished to a convent by her family, to avoid scandal.

The aria "Senza Mamma" occurs after she has been bluntly and coldly told that her son is dead. Her grief at the fact of his death without his mother's blessing, allied to her wish that she may see him again as soon as possible ; makes her take the terrible decision of suicide.

O free and merry Spring,  
 Spring that smilest upon the earth,  
 Burst open the seed, let loose the song,  
 And flood my soul with love and joy!  
 O Spring, the young shoots are singing  
 The burning marriage of earth and sun;  
 Give me your rays, give me your warmth,  
 With new life fill my soul,  
 Under the undried snow the heart  
 In pain has groaned in never-ending night,  
 O Spring, thy kiss will melt the snow.  
 O Spring, give me love . . . O Spring!

English translation: JOHN BROWN.

*Aria. DO YOU NOT LONG FOR OUR VILLA?*

from *Tosca* *Giacomo Puccini*

Tosca has just come into the church where her lover Mario is painting a picture, in order to tell him that she is free to go with him to the country that evening. She then sings about their happy home in this little villa where they can shut out all cares and troubles.

*Aria. LOVE AND MUSIC* from *Tosca* *Giacomo Puccini*

Tosca's prayer to Heaven is one of the loveliest of melodies. The evil dictator, Scarpia, has given her the chance of saving her Mario's life by living with him. She asks Heaven why, when she has always tried to do good, she should be thus rewarded.

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# Biography

The Australian lyric-dramatic soprano, JOAN HAMMOND, is a "household" name throughout the world.

Just prior to 1939, Joan Hammond left her home in Sydney, Australia, where she had achieved fame in many fields of sport, particularly golf, having won her State Championship three times, as well as many other titles. At the same time, she was a violinist in the Sydney Philharmonic and Conservatorium orchestras.

She went straight to Vienna to study languages and operas, after which she was engaged at the Vienna Opera to sing principal roles.

Shortly afterwards, she was asked to appear in London with Sir Henry Wood at the opening night of the Promenade Concerts.

When war broke out in 1939 she joined up as an Ambulance driver in London's East End. Concerts and operatic performances were fitted in between her arduous duties, as well as many concerts for the troops, and in Air Raid shelters during the "blitz."

Having made several records with Columbia and "His Master's Voice," Joan Hammond rapidly became popular throughout the British Isles, and was greatly in demand for concert and operatic tours at the conclusion of the War.

After a long recital tour of Australia in 1946, she returned to Vienna to appear as the first British Guest Artist at the State Opera after the War. This was followed by a recital tour of South Africa.

She then appeared in quick succession in all the leading Opera Houses and Concert Halls of the world with all the principal conductors, in conjunction with recital tours of America, the British Isles, Canada, Russia, East and Central Africa, etc.

In addition to being the first British artist to sing in Russian in Russian Opera Houses, she is the first Australian ever to sing in the Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow (February, 1957).

Her programmes include songs and arias sung in five languages, German, Italian, Russian, French and English.

## *Joan Hammond*

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